

America again today. But today, the world looks with eyes averted, because the images that today define America in no way resemble America.

HONORING MONSIGNOR JOHN O'DONNELL ON HIS GOLDEN JUBILEE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monsignor John O'Donnell of Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Monsignor O'Donnell is celebrating his Golden Jubilee this year, which marks his 50th year in the priesthood.

Born in Philadelphia in 1928, Monsignor O'Donnell was ordained on May 27, 1954. He is a man who is known for his faith, service, and dedication to his neighbors. It seems that everyone at Immaculate Conception has a story about how Monsignor O'Donnell has touched their lives.

Immaculate Conception is the most diverse Catholic church in Fort Smith. It is the perfect fit for Monsignor O'Donnell, who constantly highlights and celebrates the diversity of the parish.

Mr. Speaker, Monsignor O'Donnell has influenced the lives of countless Arkansans. I thank Monsignor O'Donnell for his 50 years of service and being an inspiration to all of us.

WORKING TOGETHER ON TOP PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning we can refer to two pictures on the front of the Washington Post that show: the perplexity of General Taguba who tried to tell the truth, and the collapse of young Nick Berg's father when he heard of the tragedy that occurred. All of this falls at the feet of our administration, regardless of one taking a trip or not.

We need a full investigation which will include the Committee on the Judiciary, and we need it now. The American people and their values are owed this responsibility.

Let me change for a moment, Mr. Speaker, and talk about H.R. 4107, involving our firefighters, and say that this is a good first start, this bill, but we must make sure that the fire grant stays at the U.S. Fire Administration, and we must also recognize that firefighters have the rights of meeting and conferring and collective bargaining, and that should not diminish their service to the community. We welcome the volunteer fire agencies, but we also recognize that fire departments should control the work and the hours of their fire personnel so that all might be safe.

Let us work together to make H.R. 4107 a better bill, and let us have inves-

tigations so that the American people can have the answers on Iraq.

IN HONOR OF DAN PARKER

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, a constituent of mine, Mr. Daniel Parker, was struck down during his service in Iraq.

Mr. Parker, a dedicated Halliburton employee and retired teacher at a Border Patrol Academy in Charleston, was en route to Baghdad International Airport in a military convoy when an improvised explosive detonated near his vehicle.

Dan, a veteran of two tours in Vietnam, selflessly braved the perilous environment of a war zone and helped establish a peaceful and productive democracy in the Middle East. Civilian workers like Dan are the unsung heroes in pursuit of stability in Iraq.

With the deaths this past week of Dan and other civilians, we have been tragically exposed to the deadly hazards that these courageous American employees encounter during their daily work abroad.

Working alongside coalition troops and the Iraqi people, civilian contractors work tirelessly to improve the quality of life of strangers by helping to provide the simple resources that we in America most often take for granted: electric power, clean water, and public schools.

Dan Parker was an innocent victim of the treacherous conditions that Americans continue to endure in Iraq. His sacrifice and the sacrifice of others like him will not soon be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with Dan and his family.

FAILURE OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that in 5 minutes, the House Committee on International Relations is going to have a hearing about the post-Iraq situation. Since there are only 48 days left until the transfer of power, it is about time. Sadly, it is about 2 years late. It is an example of the sorry declining of congressional oversight and leadership of what was supposed to be a co-equal branch of government. The abuse of Iraqis never convicted of anything is just the latest example of that failure.

While some would claim that asking hard questions is an example of lack of support for our troops, the real lack of support for our troops is not giving them adequate water, and food, proper equipment, to say nothing of the relief of adequate support for troops on the ground and relief to rotate them home.

To the shame of this congressional leadership, we have failed to do our job as congressional watchdogs and policymakers. It has created problems for our troops in Iraq, it has created problems for the Iraqi people, and for the American public.

SINS OF A FEW MUST NOT TARNISH GOOD WORK OF MANY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons. One, of course, is to acknowledge the misconduct of a few American soldiers in the Iraqi prison, conduct we all abhor. Unfortunately, war is an ugly thing, and there will always be egregious behavior under the expediency of war.

But, Mr. Speaker, my other purpose is to implore that we do not forget the nobility and heroism with which our soldiers serve this country. Millions and millions of Iraqis have been liberated from a murdering, raping dictator, thanks to American soldiers. We cannot let the sins of a few tarnish the good work of the many.

Despite the current negative attention, we will not lose faith in the rightness of our purpose or the ability of our troops to be victorious.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS 5 MEANINGFUL INITIATIVES FOR AMERICA

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, working families continue to suffer under the oppressive policies of the Republican-controlled White House and Congress. With a new low in cynicism, Republicans have made a mockery of the suffering of the jobless.

The Republican unit of dirty tricks, deceitful slogans, and tricky titles has launched a new HOW initiative; Hire Our Workers, they call it. But Republicans refuse to support any of the actions that will relieve the suffering of working families.

Instead of bombarding the Nation with new rope-a-dope slogans, Republicans should just do the right thing and support five basic actions: extend Federal unemployment benefits; end the current tax incentives for shipping jobs overseas; raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to at least \$7 an hour; enact a robust highway bill to create 1.8 million good-paying jobs; and invest more resources in key education and job training programs.

Stop swindling the poor with words. Pass these five initiatives without further delay.

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of south Florida's most beloved treasures and one of our Nation's most outspoken advocates on behalf of higher education, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, retiring President of Barry University.

When Sister Jeanne became President in 1981, Barry University was a struggling college of 2,000 students. Since then, she has raised over \$170 million and has transformed Barry into a thriving university, serving more than 8,500 students.

But for the record, Sister Jeanne impacted much on my life and I want to recognize it here today.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Jeanne and I are both lung cancer survivors.

Having gone through diagnosis and treatment before me, sister Jeanne's model of resolve and optimism has brought me through some of my darkest days. Today I thank Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin for her many gifts to south Florida over the years and for her personal gift to me at my time of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to many wonderful things to come from Sister Jeanne as she moves to the next phase of her unending quest to make the world a smarter and more loving place for all of us.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ALL AMERICANS OBSERVE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING AND BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF BROWN

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 414) expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of H. Con. Res. 414 is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 414

Whereas on May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced in Brown v. Board of Education (347 U.S. 483) that, "in the field of education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place";

Whereas the Brown decision overturned the precedent set in 1896 in Plessy v. Ferguson (163 U.S. 537), which had declared "separate but equal facilities" constitutional and allowed the continued segregation of public schools in the United States on the basis of race;

Whereas the Brown decision recognized as a matter of law that the segregation of public schools deprived students of the equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the Brown decision stood as a victory for plaintiff Linda Brown, an African American third grader who had been denied admission to an all white public school in Topeka, Kansas;

Whereas the Brown decision stood as a victory for those plaintiffs similarly situated to Linda Brown in the cases that were consolidated with Brown, which included Briggs v. Elliot (103 F. Supp. 920), Davis v. County School Board (103 F. Supp. 337), and Gephardt v. Belton (91 A.2d 137);

Whereas the Brown decision stood as a victory for those that had successfully dismantled school segregation years before Brown through legal challenges such as Westminster School District v. Mendez (161 F.2d 774), which ended segregation in schools in Orange County, California;

Whereas the Brown decision stands among all civil rights cases as a symbol of the Federal Government's commitment to fulfill the promise of equality;

Whereas the Brown decision helped lead to the repeal of "Jim Crow" laws and the elimination of many of the severe restrictions placed on the freedom of African Americans;

Whereas the Brown decision helped lead to the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or national origin in workplaces and public establishments that have a connection to interstate commerce or are supported by the State;

Whereas the Brown decision helped lead to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which promotes every American's right to participate in the political process;

Whereas the Brown decision helped lead to the enactment of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 that prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability; and

Whereas in 2004, the year marking the 50th anniversary of the Brown decision, inequalities evidenced at the time of such decision have not been completely eradicated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision;

(2) encourages all Americans to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision; and

(3) renews its commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown with a pledge to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that remain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

□ 1030

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 414, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of House Concurrent Resolution 414, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education and calls on Americans to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown.

In 1896, the Supreme Court decided Plessy v. Ferguson, which held that separate but equal public facilities were lawful. This decision paved the way for the systematic segregation of America based on race. In the wake of that decision, State legislatures felt vindicated passing a number of laws, including the infamous Jim Crow laws, which ensured that the right to equal protection of the laws was a right in name only for African Americans and other minorities.

Many fought for years to try and reverse this pattern of discrimination. Some met with limited success, such as Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, who in 1947 prevailed in their efforts to allow students of Mexican ancestry to attend the same California public elementary schools as attended by white children, but it was not until Oliver Brown and his brave fellow plaintiffs from Kansas, Virginia, South Carolina, and Delaware successfully challenged the school segregation policies in those States that this pattern of inequality began to change for all persons.

As Chief Justice Earl Warren, who had recently been appointed to the Supreme Court by President Eisenhower, stated for a unanimous majority, "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place."

In the 50 years since the Brown decision, much has changed in this country. Brown provided the spark for the Eisenhower administration to push through the 1957 and 1960 Civil Rights Acts. These acts, in turn, provided the blueprint for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

All of these acts served to further dismantle the barriers to equality that African Americans and other members of minority groups had faced in the decades after Plessy. It is for this reason that Congress, and indeed, all Americans, should celebrate the anniversary of Brown and take this opportunity to reflect anew on the importance of equality in society.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Ranking Member CONYERS) for introducing this resolution and would also like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ), and the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for their own resolution which helped inform the measure we have before us today. I am pleased to note that most of the leadership of both parties have signed on as cosponsors of this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting it.